

09/700687

532 Rec'd PCT/PTO 17 NOV 2000

Attorney's Docket No. 33339/206076

IN THE UNITED STATES DESIGNATED OFFICE (DO/US)

In re: Laurent Benbadis et al.

Attn: DO/US

International Appl. No.: PCT/FR99/01165

International Filing Date: May 17, 1999

For: MUTANT LACTOBACILLUS BULGARICUS

STRAINS FREE FROM BETA-GALACTOSIDE ACTIVITY

November 17, 2000

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Washington, DC 20231

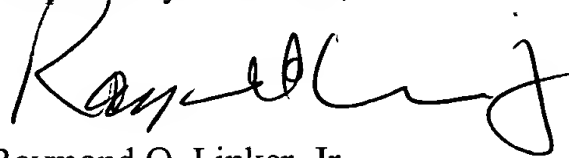
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

The patents listed on the attached PTO-1449 were cited in the International Search Report of corresponding International Application No. PCT/FR99/01165. A copy of the Search Report and documents cited therein are enclosed for the Examiner's convenience.

The Examiner may wish to consider the notations on the Search Report itself regarding the relevance of each item. It is requested that the Examiner consider these references and officially make them of record in accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 and Section 609 of the MPEP. By submitting the listed documents, Applicant in no way makes any admission as to the prior art status of the listed documents, but is instead submitting the listed documents for the sake of full disclosure.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date of Deposit: November 17, 2000

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